FAQs for Violence Against Women and Substance Use Prevention Initiative

Opportunity Number: WH-AST-22-004

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. What applicants are eligible and how will they be defined for this funding opportunity?

a. Any public or private (profit or nonprofit) entity located in a State (which includes one of the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) is eligible to apply for an award under this announcement. Community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and American Indian/Alaska Native/Native American (AI/AN/NA) organizations are eligible to apply.

b. Examples of eligible Organizations include:

- State Governments
- U.S. territories
- County Governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public Housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations, including small businesses.

B. PREPARING TO APPLY

1. What is the deadline to apply to this funding opportunity?

a. Applications are due July 13, 2022, by 6 p.m. Eastern Time. To receive consideration, you must submit your application electronically via Grants.gov no later than this due date and time.

2. How can I get more information on this funding opportunity?

a. A Technical Assistance webinar was held on May 24, 2022. The webinar was recorded and is posted to the OWH YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR4ynhaWJjo). The webinar presentation slides can be found on grants.gov.

3. How can I stay up to date on any updates or changes to the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), additional information and resources, and other developments?

a. The best way to stay up to date is to subscribe to this NOFO on grants.gov. Go to www.grants.gov and click the "Search Grants" tab in the upper left of the screen.
b. On the next screen, look for the "BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA" fields under the SEARCH GRANTS header in the upper left corner. Enter WH-AST-22-004 in the Opportunity Number field and click the SEARCH-button.
c. Click on the link under the Opportunity Number header. You will see a red "Subscribe" icon in the right corner. You then will be prompted to either enter your username and password or establish one, after which you'll be able to subscribe and get alerts.

4. Who should I contact if I still have questions about the NOFO? Questions about developing my application?

a. Who to contact will depend on the nature of your question(s). For programmatic questions, such as developing elements of your application, contact Caroline Stetler, Caroline.Stetler@hhs.gov. CC Duane Barlow on your email.
b. Contact Duane Barlow, Duane.Barlow@hhs.gov for financial and grants-related questions. CC: Caroline Stetler on your email.

5. Who should I contact if I have issues with the grants.gov portal or the electronic application process?

a. Contact Grants.gov Applicant Support:
Email: support@grants.gov
Telephone: 800-518-4726

6. What registrations are needed to apply to this funding announcement?

a. On April 4, 2022, the federal government completed its transition from using the nine-digit. DUNS number as the official unique entity identifier to the twelve-digit UEI(SAM) number. The UEI(SAM) is required for submission of applications. Refer to page 28 of the NOFO.

7. How do we get a UEI number?

a. You may find additional information about the transition for both existing and new SAM registrants at https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsafsd_kb_articles&sys_id=e31c534f1b40c1103565ed3ce54bcbce.
b. You will find instructions on the Grants.Gov web site as part of the organization registration process at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html. Refer to pages 28-29 of the NOFO.

8. How do I register my organization on SAM.gov? What if my registration is expired?

a. Refer to page 28 of the NOFO. Your organization must register online in the System for Award Management (SAM). Grants.gov will reject submissions from applicants with nonexistent or expired SAM Registrations.
b. If you are registering a new entity or renewing your registration, you must submit a notarized letter formally appointing an Entity Administrator to SAM.GOV. For detailed instructions on the content of the letter and process for domestic entities see: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?sys_kb_id=8cfe46491b1cb8909ac5ddb6bc4bcbbb&id=kb_article_view&sysparm_rank=1&sysparm_tsqueryId=c6131c131bdcf0d0a7d7da49bc4bcb1a.
c. A quick start guide for registrants is available at https://www.fsd.gov/sys_attachment.do?sys_id=80f49f211bdcfc909ac5ddb6bc4bcb76. You should allow a minimum of five days to complete an initial SAM registration. Allow up to 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to be active in SAM. This timeframe may be longer if SAM flags the information you provide for manual validation. You will receive an email alerting you when your registration is active.

9. Can you explain the page limits? What does or does not count for which limits?

a. Your project narrative must not exceed 25 pages. Your total application, including the project narrative and appendices, must not exceed 55 pages. Refer to page 14 of the NOFO.

b. The SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables) do not count towards your 25-or 50-page limit.

c. The appendices should include the items described on pages 27-28 of the NOFO and listed here:

- Work Plan
- Memoranda of Agreement
- Organizational Chart

- Curriculum Vitae/Résumés/Biosketches for Key Project Personnel
- References Cited

You must submit these appendices as a single electronic file uploaded to the Attachments section of your Grants.gov application.

10. Are applicants required to submit memorandums of agreement (MOAs)?

a. Refer to page 27 of the NOFO. If available at the time of submission, signed MOAs may be submitted for each partner (or one signed MOA with all partners) and include specific roles, responsibilities, resources, and contributions of partner(s) to the project. If you are unable to submit signed MOAs, you should submit an unsigned MOA(s).

C. APPLICATION REVIEW

1. How will my application be reviewed?

a. An independent review panel will evaluate applications that meet the responsiveness criteria, if applicable, and are not disqualified. These reviewers are typically experts in their fields, and are drawn from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, state and local government, and Federal government agencies other than HHS/OASH. In addition to the independent review panel, Federal staff will review each application for programmatic, budgetary, and grants management compliance. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health will provide recommendations for funding to the Grants Management Officer to conduct risk analysis. Refer to page 37 of the NOFO.

2. Are budgets scored as part of the review process?

a. Yes. Refer to page 37 in the NOFO.

D. PROGRAM

1. What is expected of applicants?

a. Applicants must address all expectations outlined on pages 8-10 of the NOFO. OWH expects recipients of awards under this initiative to develop a statewide pilot project that includes partnerships with domestic and sexual violence organizations at the state and local level and that will:

- Incentivize SUD providers treating pregnant and postpartum women to be trained on IPV;
- Train SUD treatment providers to address IPV with patients and train IPV staff on SUD;
- Identify, utilize, and disseminate best practices;
- Integrate IPV and SUD protocols into medical practice;
- Integrate perinatal and postpartum programs into existing substance use programs;
- Implement a process and outcomes evaluation; and
- Develop a disparity impact statement.

2. **Are proposals from Substance Abuse Disorder providers or Interpersonal Violence providers preferred?**
    a. Refer to page 2 of the NOFO. These grants are designed to bring together substance use disorder providers and maternal health stakeholders with those working to prevent violence against women.

3. **What is your definition of statewide in developing a program? Would the ideal pilot program proposal necessarily be statewide in the initial phase or able to be scaled up to statewide at a later date?**
    a. Refer to "Expectations for Funded Projects," on pages 8-10 of the NOFO and "Application Review Information" on pages 33-37 of the NOFO.
    b. Refer to page 1 of NOFO. Recipients will be expected to develop a statewide pilot project that includes partnerships with domestic and sexual violence organizations at the state and local level.

4. **For purposes of this grant, how is the "postpartum" time frame defined?**
    a. You should interpret "postpartum" using its commonly accepted meaning. Generally, OWH defines the postpartum period to be from birth to 12 months after delivery; however, applicants may indicate in their proposal reasonably shorter or longer periods consistent with their statement of need.

5. **Is there a maximum percentage of the award that should be attributed to the Evaluation of the grant?**
    a. No.